

~~SENSITIVE~~

*CIA/SAVA /WVIND 710213*



## *WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS*

*Week Ending 13 February 1971*

**NSA Declassification/Release instructions on File.**

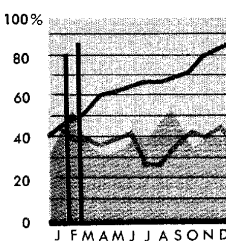
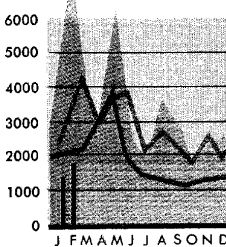
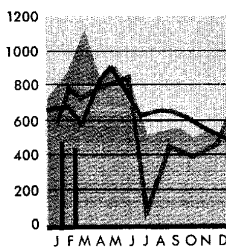
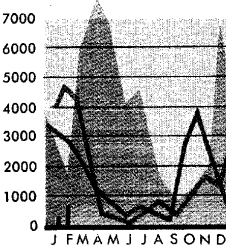
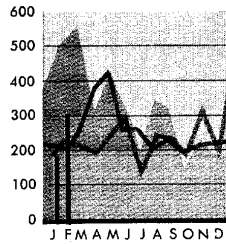
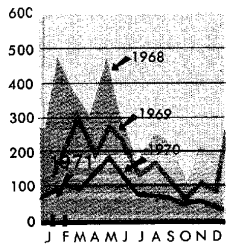
*For the President Only*

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## SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1971

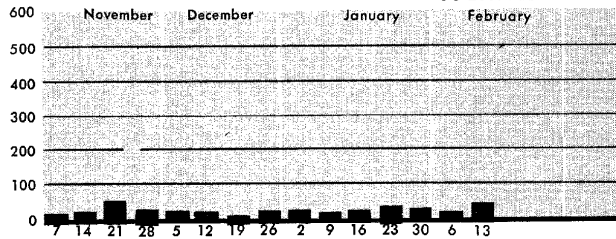
Weekly average for each month



NOVEMBER 1970 - FEBRUARY 1971

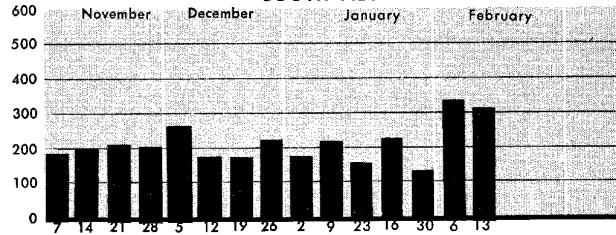
Weekly data as reported

## US BATTLE DEATHS



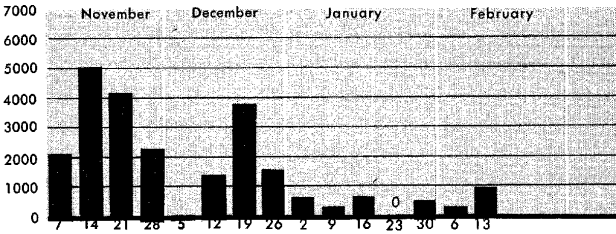
rose sharply from last week's three-month low of 24 to 51, largely as a result of the air and ground casualties in Operation LAM SON 719.

## SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



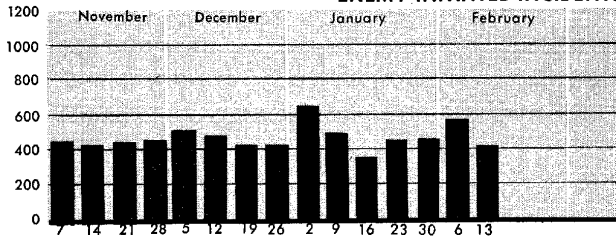
decreased slightly to 312 from the 321 of last week. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

## INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



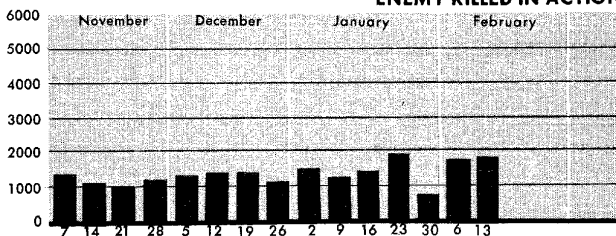
stand at one detected and one gap fill group with a combined strength of some 1,000. The total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 is now an estimated 41,900 - 44,400.

## ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



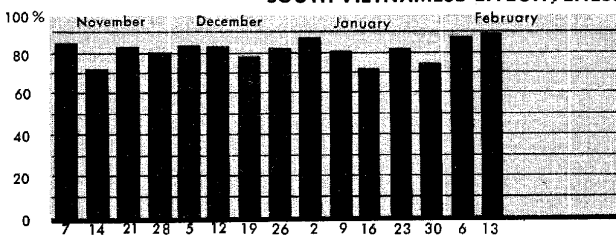
dropped to 426 from last week's 498.

## ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



rose to 1,906 from last week's 1,770 due to increased contacts in Laos and Cambodia.

## SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces increased to 90% from the 87% of last week.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity was relatively light in South Vietnam except for northern Military Region I where there was a sharp increase in attacks by fire and ground actions in the Khe Sanh-Route 9 area extending westward into Laos. Activity in this sector seems likely to increase as the enemy attempts to relieve Allied pressure against his logistical system in the Laos Panhandle.

Military activity in Cambodia was generally light during the week, but ARVN forces continue to make significant contacts in the vicinity of the Chup Plantation. FANK forces have had light contact in various parts of the country with the most significant engagement occurring near Takeo. Brig. Gen. Neak Sam, the acting Takeo sub-division commander, was killed in this action. On the same day, Route 5 between Phnom Penh and Battambang was reported reopened for the first time in more than a month.

In north Laos, pressure is being maintained on the Royal Capital at Luang Prabang. Meanwhile, elements of two NVA divisions have moved closer to Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng where they have been joined by elements of an independent regiment. This year's assault on Long Tieng was opened on 13 February with a rocket attack which has been followed by additional attacks by fire and limited ground probes. In southern Laos, government irregulars south of Attapeu were active mining roads and ambushing enemy patrols while several paramilitary sites on the eastern edge of the Bolovens Plateau were probed and shelled by the enemy. The SILVER BUCKLE interdiction task force has returned from its mission against Route 99 and is now preparing for a new effort to cut Route 23 below Muong Phine.

Enemy Infiltration

During the week, one infiltration group was detected in Laos and a "gap fill" was accepted raising the infiltration estimate since 1 October 1970 to some 41,900 - 44,400. The lull in detections of infiltration starts in North Vietnam continues, but recent intercepts, although sometimes vague, do provide references to forthcoming personnel movements. A 6 February message alerted infiltration stations in the Laos Panhandle near Ban Karai Pass to be prepared to receive from 700 to 1,500 troops at a time with the implication that the flow would begin on the 15th. Since this message was sent before Allied operations in Laos got underway, it is not known whether the planned movement is continuing or has been altered. However, in a possibly related BT-18 message of 10 February, reference was made to eight groups "coming down," but no group numbers, strengths, or destinations were mentioned. While these are the only direct reflections in over a month of troops possibly entering the infiltration system, the detection in southern Laos on 12 February of another group with a designator number indicating a large gap in detections has strengthened our suspicion that 11 groups have been missed at the "Vinh window." Although current methodology does not permit that these groups yet be accepted, it is probable that these 11 "possibly missed" groups are in the system and that the current infiltration estimate could be some 6,000 higher than the 41,900 - 44,400 figure given above.

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25X1X6

South Vietnam Developments

[REDACTED] Vice President Ky stated that he intended to run for the Presidency. Ky said his decision was based on his lack of confidence in Thieu, and [REDACTED] nothing could force him to change his mind from running. Ky also said that he will soon dispatch an emissary to Paris to contact and persuade former GVN Minister of Economy Au Truong Thanh to become his vice presidential running mate. Several days earlier, Ky's press aide had reported that an emissary would be sent to Paris to reach Thanh, but the aide also said that Ky was still undecided on running for the Presidency. If contact is made with Thanh, this would not be the first instance of Ky's wooing the left-leaning Thanh.

25X1C

[REDACTED] appears to have offered Thanh the number two position on a Ky ticket without any apparent success. There is probably little reason why Thanh would now be any more receptive to such an overture. Moreover, Thanh has professed to be a strong Minh supporter. [REDACTED] Ky has probably

25X1X6

not yet decided on what to do and is still considering his future at this time. He may change his mind several times before filing day.

North Vietnam Developments

The DRV has announced that "elections" (postponed for three years) will be held in April for a new National Assembly. Though they are supposed to be held every four years, the last assembly elections were held in April 1964. The holding of these staged elections this April is seen as a new effort by the regime to underline its "popular" ties with the people and to use the election results as an affirmation of support for the Party's policies, one of which (in the language of a recent Party newspaper editorial) includes Hanoi's determination "to adequately, expeditiously, and regularly provide all the necessary aid for the frontlines and to wholeheartedly support the fraternal Laotian and Cambodian peoples."

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